

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 have been canceled and new claims 22-60 have been added. Consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

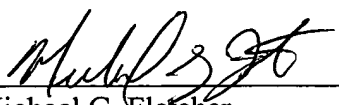
If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (281) 970-4545.

General Authorization for Extensions of Time

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby provide a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Furthermore, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee for any extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-3092; Order No. MCRO:125--4/FLE (94-0281.04).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 22, 2002



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